

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OES-07 NSF-01
EB-08 SOE-02 DOE-15 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-01
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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: 64TH ECOSOC: ITEM 7 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY -
STATUS ACAST. WORLD PLAN OF ACTION NOT YET RESOLVED.

REF: A.) UN DOCUMENT A/33/43 B.) UN DOCUMENT E/1978/33
C.) GENEVA 1902 (USUN 3092)

1. DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 7, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CON-
CLUDED ON APRIL 12. GUY GRESFORD, WHO HAS ASSUMED DUTIES
AS DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN CONFERENCE
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (UNCSTD),
INTRODUCED REPORT OF SECOND PREPCOM (REF A); OST DIRECTOR
KLAUS STANDKE INTRODUCED REPORT OF FOURTH SESSION OF
ECOSOC'S COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOP-
MENT (CSTD)(REF B). PRINCIPAL WESTERN SPEAKERS WERE
DELEGATES OF FINLAND (FOR NORDICS), NEW ZEALAND AND
NETHERLANDS, ALL OF WHOM STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF NGO
PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS.

2. MAJOR UNRESOLVED ISSUE DERIVES FROM DECISION 2(IV)
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OF CSTD, IN WHICH COUNCIL WAS ASKED TO "EXAMINE THE NEED
TO REVIEW THE MANDATE GIVE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ON
THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT -
ACAST)" TO REVISE THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE APPLI-
CATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT. DEBATE
PICKED UP DIRECTLY FROM CSTD (REF B PP 9-11): STANDKE
FIRST RAISED QUESTION WITH A NEEDLESSLY PROVOCATIVE "TAKE

IT OR LEAVE IT" APPROACH IN HIS OPENING REMARKS. WESTERN SPEAKERS, PLUS USSR AND, MORE CAUTIOUSLY, INDIA, SPOKE OF USEFULNESS OF UPDATING UNDER WAY; DELS OF VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA (G-77 SPOKESMAN, ALTHOUGH HIS MANDATE ON THIS SUBJECT NOT FULLY CLEAR) REFUSED TO ADMIT THE APPLICABILITY OF THE PLAN TO UNCSTD AND ESPECIALLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM OF ACTION, DENIED THE UTILITY OF ACAST'S FIVE TOPICS AS ILLUSTRATION FOR THE SUBJECT AREAS (AS THE LATTER IN THEMSELVES PURELY ILLUSTRATIVE) AND INDEED QUESTIONED THE UTILITY OF THE UPDATING EXERCISE PER SE. THE G-77 ARE STILL DISCUSSING A DRAFT RESOLUTION TO CONCRETIZE THIS APPROACH, WITH INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS TO FOLLOW ONCE A TEXT IS READY.

3. FROM MISSION'S DISCUSSIONS OF ACAST UPDATING WITH NICHOLS AND WILLIAMS, US NATIONAL ON OST STAFF, IT APPEARS THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT QUESTIONS INVOLVED.

- A.) ONE INVOLVES COMPLETION OF PAPERS ON FIVE TOPICS: FOOD, POPULATION, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. FIRST DRAFTS OF ALL BUT THE LAST OF THESE HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF ACC SUB COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OF ACAST; ON BASIS OF THEIR COMMENTS, OST WILL EDIT THE PAPERS FOR PRESENTATION IN FINAL DRAFT TO ACAST IN JULY. ALTHOUGH THE QUALITY VARIES ACCORDING TO NICHOLS, THREE OF THE FOUR (EXCEPT ENVIRONMENT) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT) SEEM USEFUL. NICHOLS ALSO NOTED THAT THE PAPERS (EACH ABOUT 100 PAGES) CAN STAND ON THEIR OWN; HE SEES THEIR DESIGNATION AS REVISIONS OF THE WORLD PLAN AS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF HISTORY AND CONVENIENCE. MISSION BELIEVES COMPLETION OF THE FINAL WORK ON THESE PAPERS IS JUSTIFIED, AND THAT THE PAPERS IN THEMSELVES CAN BE OF VALUE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND, AS SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, TO THE CONFERENCE.

- B.) THE LARGER QUESTION IS THAT OF UPDATING THE ENTIRE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION. THUS FAR, NO WORK OTHER THAN ON THE FIVE TOPICS HAS BEEN DONE, ALTHOUGH OST HAS PLANS FOR AN AMBITIOUS NEW INTRODUCTION AND FOR PRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS. THE MISSION DOES NOT BELIEVE SUCH WORK WOULD BE USEFUL (NEITHER DOES NICHOLS OR, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, WILLIAMS); NEITHER DOES PERPETUATION OF WORLD PLAN SEEM IN U.S. INTEREST. RATHER, WE SHARE VIEWPOINT OF G-77 MODERATES WHO BELIEVE ACAST CAN BE MOST USEFUL IN ORIENTING ITS WORK MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE CONFERENCE, SUCH AS ON SUBJECT OF OBSTACLES.

4. MISSION PROPOSES THEREFORE TO EMPHASIZE INTRINSIC VALUE OF THE FIVE TOPICAL STUDIES IN BOTH PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH 77 AND IN EVENTUAL INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS,

AS WE HAVE ALREADY DONE WITH VENEZUELAN AND INDIAN DELS.
FURTHER, WE PROPOSE TO SUGGEST THAT THESE CAN BE
SEEN QUITE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE WORLD PLAN. RELATIVE TO
THE LATTER WE SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE ARE WILLING TO DROP
FURTHER REVISIONS, UNLESS THE 1979 CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS
TO THE CONTRARY. WE SHOWED SUPPORT G-77 EFFORTS TO
ENCOURAGE MORE CLOSE INVOLVEMENT OF ACAST WITH CONFERENCE
PREPARATIONS.

5. AS INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON G-77 TEXT ARE LIKELY TO

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BEGIN MONDAY, MISSION REQUESTS DEPARTMENTS COMMENTS ASAP.

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Message Attributes

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